

CAPITAL CITY AIRPORT
(Capital City Airport, Vector Construction)
North side of Grand River Avenue
Lansing, Vicinity
Clinton County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-320-D

HAER
MICH
19-LANDOV
ID-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Northeast Field Area
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
MICH
19-LANOV,
ID-

CAPITAL CITY AIRPORT, Vector Construction HAER No. MI-320-D

Location: Capital City Airport, West Ramp Area
Lansing vicinity, Clinton County, Michigan

UTM: 16.696210.473860
Quad: Lansing North, 1:24,000

Date of Construction: 1966

Engineer: State of Michigan, Board of Aeronautics
Architect: None

Present Owner: Capital Region Airport Authority
Capital City Airport
Lansing, Michigan

Present Occupants: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Vector Construction building represents the typical development of expanding modern airport services at Capital City Airport and the structures built to accommodate them, thereby contributing to the overall significance of the West Ramp of the airport.

Project Information: Vector Construction is an identified airport hazard under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards, and is scheduled for removal. During an environmental review (1988), the State Historic Preservation Officer determined that the building meets the criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and, therefore, would require mitigation of the adverse effect caused by its removal. The Memorandum of Agreement (1995) stipulates documentation of Vector Construction according to HAER guidelines. This documentation was undertaken to fulfill that stipulation.

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Refer to the Overview Report MI-320 for a more complete description of the history of aviation and its ties to the Lansing area. Establishment of fixed base operators at the Capital City Airport is covered more fully in the narrative text of the Overview Report. The documentation of this individual element provides a more specific history of Vector Construction in the context of the Capital City Airport.

In 1966 it is thought that Landy Taylor built a two-story concrete block and steel frame office building adjacent to Hebert Aviation's one-story office. There has been much speculation, however, that it was actually Vector Construction that built the building. Neither story could be absolutely confirmed from available documentation. In a letter dated April 7, 1966, Landon E. Taylor, the president of Landy Taylor and Associates states his company's intention to build a "40' x 60' two-story addition to [their] present office building [Hebert's one-story office that Landy Taylor had purchased]," which would be "located adjacent to [the company's] present office and running north 60 feet to [their] property line (pers. com. 1966)." Either this structure was built and later added on to, or the company decided to build a larger structure because the building that actually exists measures 60' x 80'.

In December of 1967 Taylor requested (pers. com. 1967) approval to construct an enclosure between his hangar and the state-owned Club Hangar. However, it is unknown if the structure that exists today between the two hangars was built by Landy Taylor, or later by Vector Construction.

In February of 1970 Landy Taylor sold its properties to Vector Construction, Inc. (pers. com. 1970). Since the Club Hangar was not included in the transaction, because it was owned by the State, Vector leased it as Landy Taylor had. It appears that Vector used most of the buildings it acquired for income producing purposes. Capital City Aviation, for example, subleased the Club Hangar and some office space from Vector (Short 1990, 34). In fact, several small aviation companies leased office space in the two story office building. Vector also had its offices in the building, with the company's construction yard located across Airport Road. In September of 1991, Vector Construction vacated its property after selling it to the Capital Region Airport Authority. The buildings are scheduled for demolition to enable airport expansion, and for compliance with FAA regulations requiring a wider clear zone associated with the runways.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. ENGINEERING DRAWINGS

Landy Taylor Addition. 1966. State of Michigan, Department of Aeronautics. Drawn by Harold Olver. Site and construction drawings for a 60' x 100' 2-story office building attached to Hebert Aviation Offices.

B. HISTORIC VIEWS

No historic views of Vector Construction were found.

C. INTERVIEWS

Ruth, Babe Weyant. Interview with the author. Lansing, Michigan, 7 May 1992. Babe's association with the Capital City Airport was as an aviator, flight instructor, and unofficial historian of the airport from the early 1930's until the present (1992).

D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Short, J.M. August 13, 1990. Appraisal of 16647 Airport Service Drive, Capital City Airport, Lansing, Michigan, "Vector Construction Co., Inc." Charlotte, Michigan. The original appraisal is available in the offices of the Capital Region Airport Authority.

Sinas, T.G. (Sinat, Dramis, Brake and Turner, P.C.). Letter to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission, 16 February 1970. A copy of the original letter is available in the lease files in the offices of the Capital Region Airport Authority.

Taylor, L.E. Letter to Frank Sicklesmith, Michigan Aeronautics Commission, 7 April 1966. A copy of the original letter is available in the lease files in the offices of the Capital Region Airport Authority.

Taylor, L.E. Letter to Russell Brown, Michigan Aeronautics Commission, 5 December 1967. A copy of the original letter is available in the lease files in the offices of the Capital Region Airport Authority.